

**What is Claimed:**

1. A method for deployment of components, comprising:  
defining dependencies by components, wherein the components expose their dependencies to a cooperating interface;  
generating a list of defined dependencies;  
identifying files associated with the defined dependencies; and  
processing the dependency list and identified files to generate a deployable bundle.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising communicating the deployable bundle to a cooperating environment.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising merging the dependency list, the identified files, and default component elements to generate the deployable bundle.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising scanning the components to identify default elements and non-default elements.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing an installer component for inclusion in the deployable bundle.
6. The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising validating the deployable bundle by installing the deployable bundle in a computing environment.
7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing configuration files for inclusion in the deployable bundle.
8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing step further comprises merging the dependency list, the identified files, and default component elements to generate the deployable bundle.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising providing a merge module for performing the merge of the dependency list, the identified files, and default component elements to generate the deployable bundle.
10. A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions to perform the method as recited in claim 1.
11. A data structure for use in the creation of packages for deployment comprising:
  - a data field containing data representing components of packages;
  - a data field containing dependencies data derived from the field containing the data representative of the components of the packages by scanning the first field to identify items on which the package components depend; and
  - a field to function to delimit the end of the data structure.
12. The data structure recited in claim 11, further comprising a field derived from the data field containing dependencies by merging the component dependencies with data representing the package components.
13. The data structure recited in claim 12, wherein the field containing the merged data comprises data representative of configuration information about how to deploy the package.
14. The data structure recited in claim 11, further comprising a field to instruct an installation program to install the package.
15. A system to deploy a package having dependencies comprising:
  - dependency data representative of the dependencies of components of the package; and
  - a merge module operating to merge the dependency data with the components of the package to generate a deployable bundle.

16. The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising an installer, the installer being merged by the merge module to generate the deployable bundle.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising configuration information, the configuration information being merged by the merge module to generate the deployable bundle.

18. The system as recited in claim 17, further comprising default package components, the default package components being merged by the merge module to generate the deployable bundle.

19. The system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a communication means for use in communicating the deployable bundle to a cooperating computing environment.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising a validation means to validate the proper deployment of the package.

21. A system for use in the deployment of components having dependencies comprising:  
a means for determining the dependencies of components, the components exposing the dependencies to the means;  
a means for merging the dependencies of the components with the components to generate a deployable bundle.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising an installation means, the installation means cooperating with the merging means for installing the deployable bundle.